

What is Claimed is:

1. A postage metering system for dispensing postage, the system comprising:
  - a modem for receiving an incoming telephone call;
  - a printer module for printing on a recording medium;
  - a control system in operative communication with the modem and the printer module; the control system for:
    - storing a voice message associated with the telephone call;
    - translating the voice message into a computer based text; and
    - printing a print message from the computer based text using the printer module.
2. The postage metering system of claim 1, further comprising:
  - an input hopper for holding a stack of recording media; and
  - a transport module for feeding the recording medium one at a time from the stack downstream in a path of travel past the printer module; andwherein the control system is further for:
  - automatically feeding the recording medium from the input hopper and initiating printing of the print message in response to a previously established print parameter set by an operator of the postage metering system.
3. The postage metering system of claim 2, wherein:
  - the previously established print parameter is automatic printing in response to receipt of the voice message.
4. The postage metering system of claim 3, wherein:
  - the recording medium is a strip tape.

5. The postage metering system of claim 1, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
parsing the computer based text to create special print  
characteristics within the print message to highlight critical  
data in response to a previously established parsing  
parameter set by an operator of the postage metering  
system.
6. The postage metering system of claim 5, wherein:  
the previously established parsing parameter is names.
7. The postage metering system of claim 4, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
parsing the computer based text to create a special print  
characteristic within the print message to highlight critical  
data contained within the voice message in response to a  
previously established parsing parameter set by an operator  
of the postage metering system.
8. The postage metering system of claim 7, wherein:  
the previously established parsing parameter includes names as critical  
data and bold printing as the special print characteristic.
9. The postage metering system of claim 8, further comprising:  
a clock module for supplying real time clock data to the control system;  
and  
wherein the control system is further for:  
creating header information associated with the voice message, the  
header information including a date/time stamp, a duration  
indication and a message number indication; and

printing the header information with the print message.

10. A method of operating a postage meter system for printing a message, the method comprising the step(s) of:
  - receiving an incoming telephone call;
  - storing a voice message associated with the telephone call;
  - translating the voice message into a computer based text; and
  - printing a print message on a recording medium from the computer based text using a printer module.
11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step(s) of:
  - storing a stack of recording media in an input hopper; and
  - feeding the recording medium one at a time from the stack downstream in a path of travel past the printer module; and
  - automatically feeding the recording medium from the input hopper and initiating printing of the print message in response to a previously established print parameter set by an operator of the postage metering system.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein:
  - the previously established print parameter is automatic printing in response to receipt of the voice message.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein:
  - the recording medium is a strip tape.
14. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step(s) of:
  - parsing the computer based text to create special print characteristics within the print message to highlight critical data in response to a

previously established parsing parameter set by an operator of the postage metering system.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein:  
the previously established parsing parameter is names.
16. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step(s) of:  
parsing the computer based text to create special print characteristics  
within the print message to highlight critical data in response to a  
previously established parsing parameter set by an operator of the  
postage metering system.
17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step(s) of:  
the previously established parsing parameter includes names as critical  
data and bold printing as the special print characteristic.
18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step(s) of:  
using a clock module to supply real time clock data;  
creating header information associated with the voice message, the  
header information including a date/time stamp, a duration indication  
and a message number indication; and  
printing the header information with the print message.
19. A method of operating a telephone answering machine, the method  
comprising the step(s) of:  
receiving an incoming telephone call;  
storing a voice message associated with the telephone call;  
translating the voice message into a computer based text; and  
printing a print message on a recording medium from the computer based  
text using a printer module.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step(s) of:  
storing a stack of recording media in an input hopper; and  
feeding the recording medium one at a time from the stack downstream in  
a path of travel past the printer module; and  
automatically feeding the recording medium from the input hopper and  
initiating printing of the print message in response to a previously  
established print parameter set by an operator of the postage metering  
system.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein:  
the previously established print parameter is automatic printing in  
response to receipt of the voice message.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein:  
the recording medium is a strip tape.
23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step(s) of:  
parsing the computer based text to create special print characteristics  
within the print message to highlight critical data in response to a  
previously established parsing parameter set by an operator of the  
postage metering system.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein:  
the previously established parsing parameter is names.
25. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step(s) of:  
parsing the computer based text to create special print characteristics  
within the print message to highlight critical data in response to a

previously established parsing parameter set by an operator of the postage metering system.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step(s) of:  
the previously established parsing parameter includes names as critical data and bold printing as the special print characteristic.
27. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step(s) of:  
using a clock module to supply real time clock data;  
creating header information associated with the voice message, the header information including a date/time stamp, a duration indication and a message number indication; and  
printing the header information with the print message.